

Message Text

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ORIGIN DPW-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 DODE-00 SCS-03

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DOD/ISA - DR. SHIELDS

SCA/SCS - MR. GISE (INFO)

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R 210134Z JAN 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DAO BANGKOK

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

JCRC SAMAE SAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 014346

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, VS

SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

REFS: (A) IR 1 512 0101 75, 9 SEP 75; (B) IR 1 512 0900 75,
20 SEPT 75; (C) IR 2 201 9923 75, 9 OCT 75; (D) IR 2 201
9554 75, 12 NOV 75; (E) HONG KONG 9468 ; (F) IR 2 201 9567
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1. SOME FOREIGNERS WHO HAVE DEPARTED FROM SAIGON RECENTLY

HAVE REPORTED THAT ALL FOREIGNERS WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE SAIGON BY THE END OF FEBRUARY. THIS BELIEF IS APPARENTLY BASED ON RUMORS CIRCULATING IN SAIGON THAT SUCH A DECISION WAS REACHED DURING THE RECENT REUNIFICATION CONFERENCE. IT IS NOT KNOWN IF AMERICANS ARE INCLUDED IN THE RUMORED POLICY DECISION.

2. IN THE EVENT THAT AMERICANS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE SAIGON SOON, PARTICULARLY IF THEY DO SO IN SIZEABLE GROUPS, RECOMMEND THAT PREPARATIONS BE MADE FOR DEBRIEFINGS OF AS MANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS AS POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE THE NAMES OF ALL AMERICANS REMAINING IN VIETNAM AND INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR FATE, WELL-BEING, INTENTIONS, AND OTHER PERTINENT FACTS ABOUT THEM. A CHRONOLOGY OF THE RETURNEES' EXPERIENCES FROM THE TIME OF SAIGON'S FALL TO THEIR DEPARTURE FROM SVN WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL.

3. OF PARTICULAR CONCERN ARE REPORTS THAT SOME AMERICANS WERE KILLED DURING AND AFTER THE APRIL EVACUATION. ALTHOUGH THE ACCURACY OF THESE REPORTS HAS NOT BEEN FIRMLY ESTABLISHED, THERE HAS BEEN SOME CORROBORATING INFORMATION, AND IT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY DESIRABLE TO DEBRIEF THE RETURNEES CONCERNING ANY KNOWLEDGE THEY MAY HAVE ON THIS SUBJECT. INFORMATION FROM NON-U.S. RETURNEES SHOULD ALSO BE COLLECTED TO EXTENT POSSIBLE.

4. FOR POSTS' CONVENIENCE, FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF REPORTS ON DEAD AMERICANS:

-- A. AMERICAN REPORTED DEAD NEAR U.S. EMBASSY --
ACCORDING TO REF. A, A KOREAN NATIONAL RELEASED FROM SAIGON IN AUGUST REPORTED THAT A MAN IDENTIFIED AS A "U.S. CONSULATE EMPLOYEE" BY HIS PRESENCE IN A GROUP OF CAUCASIAN PERSONNEL INSIDE THE EMBASSY COMPOUND; WAS OBSERVED YELLING AT THE LAST DEPARTING HELICOPTER ON 30 APRIL. TWO DAYS LATER THE NEWS WAS SPREAD AMONG KOREAN PERSONNEL IN SAIGON THAT THIS MAN WAS FOUND DEAD ON A STREET IN SAIGON. REF. B WAS A FOLLOWUP REPORT TO REF. A, WHICH PROVIDED A DESCRIPTION OF THE DEAD MAN AND THE LOCATION OF HIS BODY NEAR THE U.S. EMBASSY (SE CORNER OF
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THE INTERSECTION OF HAI BA TRONG ST. AND THONG NHUT ST.). REF C STATED THAT A FORMER RVNAF CAPTAIN, WHO ESCAPED FROM SAIGON IN MAY, OBSERVED THE BODY OF A MALE CAUCASIAN NEAR ME LINH SQUARE ON 1 MAY. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, THE DEAD MAN APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED RECENTLY. IN ADDITION TO THE LOCATION OF THE DEAD MAN BEING VIRTUALLY THE SAME AS THAT REPORTED BY THE KOREAN SOURCE IN REF. B, THE RVNAF CAPTAIN'S PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DEAD MALE

IS SIMILAR TO THE DESCRIPTION PROVIDED BY THE KOREAN SOURCE. FINALLY, ANOTHER VIETNAMESE SOURCE REPORTED IN REFERENCE D THAT ON 30 APRIL SEVEN AMERICAN MALE PERSONNEL WERE SEEN YELLING TOWARDS THE ROOF OF THE EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN EVACUATING. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, NONE OF THESE MEN WERE EVACUATED. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE MAN WHO SOURCE SAID APPEARED TO BE IN CHARGE OF THIS GROUP MATCHES THE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE DEAD MAN GIVEN IN REFS. B AND C. THUS, REFERENCE D CONFIRMS REF. A REGARDING THE REPORTED PRESENCE OF A GROUP OF CAUCASIAN MALES YELLING FOR EVACUATION ASSISTANCE IN THE EMBASSY COMPOUND. (COMMENT: ALL THE SOURCES APPEAR TO HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE GROUP OF CAUCASIAN MALES, INCLUDING THE ONE LATER REPORTED DEAD NEAR THE EMBASSY, WERE AMERICANS. ACCORDING TO OUR RECORDS NO "U.S. CONSULATE" OR EMBASSY EMPLOYEES WERE LEFT IN SAIGON.)

-- B. AMERICANS REPORTED EXECUTED IN CHAU DOC PROVINCE. REFERENCE E REPORTED THAT FROM TWO TO FOUR U.S. PRISONERS HAD BEEN SIGHTED IN CHAU DOC CITY, CHAU DOC PROVINCE IN JUNE 1975 BY THREE VIETNAMESE SOURCES. THE INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM THE VIETNAMESE SOURCES BY AUSTRALIAN FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHER NEAL DAVIS, WHO PROVIDED IT TO CONGEN/DLO OFFICERS IN HONG KONG AFTER HIS DEPARTURE FROM SAIGON IN AUGUST. REF. F PROVIDED INFORMATION FROM A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE WHO REPORTED THAT HER SISTER (REPORTEDLY LIVING IN A REFUGEE CAMP AT UTAPAO AB, THAILAND) OBSERVED THE BODIES OF TWO AMERICANS LYING ON THE STREET NEAR THE PROVINCIAL MARKET IN CHAU DOC CITY IN LATE MAY. HEARSAY INFORMATION STATED THAT THE ALLEGED AMERICANS HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE VC THE PRECEEDING NIGHT. SUPPOSEDLY, THE DEATH OF THE TWO AMERICANS WAS COMMON KNOWLEDGE IN CHAU DOC CITY. RES. E AND F WERE SUMMARIZED
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IN GREATER DETAIL IN REF. G, WHICH WAS A REQUEST TO USDAO BANGKOK FOR FOLLOWUP INFORMATION REGARDING THE REPORTED DEAD AMERICANS IN CHAU DOC CITY.

-- C. AMERICAN REPORTED DEAD NEAR THE RVN NAVAL HOS --
REF. H CONTAINED INFORMATION FROM A VIETNAMESE REFUGEE WHO STATED THAT WHILE HE WAS WALKING NEAR THE RVN NAVAL HQS ON 2 MAY HE HEARD GUNFIRE FROM WITHIN THE NAVAL COM-
OUND. PEOPLE IN THE AREA TOLD HIM THAT THREE FOREIGNERS (UNKNOWN NATIONALITY) HAD BEEN EXECUTED BY THE NVA/PRG. REF. I REPORTED THAT A DIFFERENT VIETNAMESE REFUGEE SAW A DEAD CAUCASIAN AT THE CONG TRUONG ME LINH TRAFFIC CIRCLE NEAR THE RVN NAVAL HQS. THERE WAS A SIGN ATTACHED TO THE DEAD MAN'S BACK WITH THE WORDS "THIS AMERICAN DID NOT LEAVE." PRIOR TO GOING TO THIS LOCATION, THE SOURCE HAD

HEARD OVER A SAIGON RADIO STATION THAT AN AMERICAN WAS
GOING TO BE SHOT THERE. SISCO

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